(b) whether the Government have made any assessment about the number of medical practitioners stranded in London and if so, the details thereof and what steps would be taken by Government for their repatriation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Requisite information is being collected from High Commission of India, London and will be laid on the table of the House as early as possible.

Relaxation of Visa Regime

2745. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether relaxation of the Visa Regime between India and Pakistan has been high on the agenda of the talks at the Secretaries level, under the composite dialogue process;

(b) if so, whether talks have since been held on the subject, if so, what proposals were discussed on the subject; and

(c) the outcome thereof, and the steps since taken by the two countries in the light of such discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Government firmly believes that people to people contact is a significant factor in generating goodwill and promoting bilateral relations between the two countries, and it has consistently endeavoured to negotiate a Visa Regime that encourages such contacts. In keeping with this policy, Government announced unilateral visa liberalizations in September, 2004, which included, *inter alia*, multiple entry visas for accredited journalists, exemption from reporting to the police for various categories of Pakistani nationals such as those above 65 years of age, academicians, and doctros. In December 2004, Government announced additional visa liberalization measures such as visa on arrival at Wagah for certain categories of people and grant of student visas for allowing admission in Indian institutions to Pakistani students on a case-by-case basis.

India presented a draft proposing amendments to the present India-Pakistan Visa Agreement during the visit of former External Affairs Minister to Pakistan from 2-5 October, 2005. The draft envisages longer duration

visit visas for people from both countries and proposes the addition of new categories of visas such as student, pilgrims and business visa to facilitate easier movement of people across the border. Pakistan has not given its response to this draft visa agreement. Talks on visa matters will continue in the third round of the India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue.

Destruction of Terrorists Training Camps

†2746. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the terrorist training camps located across the border were destroyed automatically due to the earthquake that had occurred in Jammu and Kashmir region recently;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these camps have been re-established after about three months and have become active again; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and whether in this context America has also urged upon Pakistan to check these camps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Yes. There were about 58 terrorist training camps in operation in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan before the earthquake of 8 October 2005. Of these, about 29 terrorist training camps located in PoK and North West Frontier Province of Pakistan were damaged or destroyed in the earthquake. Some of the damaged or destroyed camps have been reconstructed and training activities have recommended.

In an interview to Doordarshan prior to his visit to India and Pakistan in March 2006, the President of the United States, *inter-alia*, said that, "on my trip to Pakistan, I will, of course, talk about the terrorist activities, the need to dismantle terrorist training camps, and to protect innocent life". During a Joint Press Conference following talks with President Musharraf on 4 March 2006, President Bush said that "part of my mission today was to determine whether or not the President is as committed as he has been in the past to bringing these terrorists to justice".

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.